

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A down flow containment assembly comprising:
a powder handling booth of sufficient size to admit an operator, said powder handling booth having a rear wall, a floor for permitting the operator to stand thereon, and an upper surface;

a barrier means positioned in the powder handling booth and spaced apart from the rear wall to define a processing zone between the barrier means and the rear wall, wherein the barrier means extends from the upper surface at least to the floor of the powder handling booth, the barrier means comprising at least a first part adapted or adaptable to permit the operator in the powder handling booth outside the processing zone to operate inside the processing zone, the first part comprising a flexible material extending at least to the floor and comprising an untethered lower edge; and

means for inducing air flow downwardly in the powder handling booth,
wherein the rear wall has a lower end and an upper end and is adapted at or near the lower end to transmit externally an air flow and adapted at or near to the upper end to transmit internally the air flow.

2. (Previously presented) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein more than the first part of the barrier means comprises a flexible material.

3. (Original) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein substantially the whole of the barrier means is composed of flexible material.

4. (Previously presented) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier means comprises a screen barrier.

5. (Previously presented) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the screen barrier comprises a curtain-type screen barrier.

6. (Previously presented) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier means comprises an enclosure barrier.

7. (Previously presented) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the enclosure barrier consists essentially of a front sheet, a first side sheet and a second side sheet, and wherein the enclosure barrier encloses the processing zone when the enclosure barrier is positioned in the powder handling booth spaced apart from the rear wall.

8. (Original) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein substantially the whole of the front sheet is composed of flexible material.

9. (Original) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein substantially the whole of the first side sheet is composed of flexible material.

10. (Original) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least the front sheet is adapted or adaptable to permit the operator in the powder handling booth outside the processing zone to operate inside the processing zone.

11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently amended) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~unteathered~~ untethered lower edge comprises an excess of flexible material that rests directly on the floor.
13. (Original) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier means is bound within a rigid framework to define a self-contained unit.
14. (Previously presented) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first part of the barrier means comprises at least one flexible portion in the shape of a glove or at least one flexible portion capable of being deformed into the shape of a glove.
15. (Original) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one flexible portion in the shape of a glove or capable of being deformed into the shape of a glove comprises a flexible sleeve terminating in a gloved end.
16. (Original) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier means is at least partially transparent.
17. (Original) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 16, wherein the at least partially transparent flexible barrier means comprises a transparent window at or near to a typical operator's eye height.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A down flow containment assembly comprising:
a powder handling booth of sufficient size to admit an operator, said powder handling booth having a rear wall, a floor for permitting the operator to stand thereon, and an upper surface;

a barrier means comprising a curtain-type screen barrier, at least a first part of which comprises a flexible material, said barrier means being positioned in the powder handling booth and spaced apart from the rear wall to define a processing zone between the barrier means and the rear wall, wherein the barrier means extends from the upper surface at least to the floor of the powder handling booth and wherein the first part of the barrier means is adapted or adaptable to permit the operator in the powder handling booth outside the processing zone to operate inside the processing zone; and

means for inducing air flow downwardly in the powder handling booth,

wherein the rear wall has a lower end and an upper end and is adapted at or near the lower end to transmit externally an air flow and adapted at or near to the upper end to transmit internally the air flow.

21. (Currently amended) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 20, wherein the barrier means comprises a lower edge that extends to the floor, the lower edge comprising an excess of flexible material that rests directly on the floor.

22. (New) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein a portion of the floor on which the operator is permitted to stand is situated outside of the processing zone, and wherein the barrier means extends to the portion of the floor on which the operator is permitted to stand outside of the processing zone.

23. (New) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 22, wherein the untethered lower edge comprises an excess of flexible material that rests directly on the portion of the floor on which the operator is permitted to stand.

24. (New) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 20, wherein a portion of the floor on which the operator is permitted to stand is situated outside of the processing zone, and wherein the barrier means extends to the portion of the floor on which the operator is permitted to stand outside of the processing zone.

25. (New) A containment assembly as claimed in claim 24, wherein the barrier means comprises a lower edge that extends to the floor, the lower edge comprising an excess of flexible material that rests directly on the portion of the floor on which the operator is permitted to stand.